

From: Daphanie M. Mullins
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/17/01 9:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ken" <macessen@accountmaster.com>
To: <consumer@mail.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 21, 2001 12:26 PM
Subject: Anti-Trust Settlement

- > The proposed settlement between the Justice Department and Microsoft is
- > weak, will not stop future abuses, and does not protect consumers. This
- > settlement favors Microsoft to such a degree that it would appear that
- > Microsofts donations to the Republican party and the Bush presidential
- > campaign were a quid pro quo, and this directly affected the course of
- > the Justice Department in settling the case. As a consumer, I find it
- > incredible that the defendant in this case has gotten so much influence
- > regarding the nature of the punishment. This is not justice and its not
- > a remedy for proven anti-trust violations.
- >
- > The settlement does not address unfair advantages Microsoft has gained
- > using illegal behavior. Companies have been destroyed, not though fair
- > competition, but rather by Microsofts monopoly tactics to maintain and
- > increase their market share. For all practical purposes, there is no
- > longer any competition in the browser market. Microsofts competitors
- > have been harmed and many companies completely destroyed.
- >
- > The proposed restrictions will not prevent further abuses. Just look at
- > the features that Microsoft has bundled, or in some cases excluded, in
- > its new Windows XP just released in October of 2001. It was proven in
- > the anti-trust trial that Microsoft attempted to coerce, bully, and
- > illegally obtain and maintain a monopoly with multimedia application
- > technology to the detriment of Real Media, Apple Computer, and others.
- > They include their own multimedia player and exclude other similar
- > products from other companies. By removing support and making it
- > difficult for consumers to add competing products that are often
- > superior to Microsofts bundled products, consumers have been harmed.
- >
- > They have removed support for Java from Windows XP which will disrupt
- > e-commerce and Java based applications delivered over the Internet. This
- > has harmed Sun and other companies that have invested heavily in Java
- > based technology that Microsoft considers a threat to their monopoly.
- > Microsoft has modified their version of another technology,
- > JavaScript, the programming language for Web browsers. These changes to
- > Microsofts implementation of JavaScript are intended to hijack the
- > previous JavaScript standard and make it their own. As a result, only

> Microsoft Web browsers will handle this new standard properly. The
> examples go on and on. Consumers have been and continue to be harmed.
>
> The proposed 3 member panel that will oversee Microsoft will likely be
> biased in favor of Microsoft, or at the very least, not fair in
> protecting consumers. With one member chosen by Microsoft, one chosen by
> the Justice Department, and the third chosen by these two members, the
> judgment of the panel will be questionable. With their oversight
> activities done in secret and their salaries paid by Microsoft, it looks
> like the fix was in and Microsoft won.
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